



Femmes D'Esprit

CNR Honors Magazine

Here's to New Horizons...

Fall 07

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Jeanene James, '08

Welcome back to *Femmes D'Esprit*! This issue has been long in the making, but it's here! So enjoy!

I'm proud to say that it gets to the crux of what Honors is all about. This issue features the talented and gifted graduates of the Class of 2007, some of the accomplishments of Honors women over the past year, the photographic artwork of Melanie Glass, and several other pieces demonstrating the rich nature of the Honors community.

During my time as Editor-in-Chief, I have regarded *Femmes* as a sanctuary, where Honors students are free to engage in materials that are inspirational, stimulating and thought-provoking. In a time where American media has embarked on a steady downward spiral, I have always found *Femmes* to be a refreshing escape. As my time in this capacity comes to an end, I hope that *Femmes* itself continues to play this role; as a medium through which students are able take advantage of free speech, not only in terms of contributing a wide

array of ideas, but also in terms of having access to ideas that are free of the pointlessly offensive nuances plaguing the media today. In my freshmen year here at CNR I wrote a paper which focused on the importance of maintaining freedom of speech on the college campus. I even did a presentation on the paper during the National Collegiate Honors Council in Philadelphia last fall, which is featured within this issue.

Accordingly, I hope that *Femmes*, despite all else, remains a forum for free speech here at the College of New Rochelle.

HONORS MATTERS: EATING LUNCH WITH A HERO

Dr. Amy Bass, Honors Program Director

I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom. - Bob Dylan

I watched the NBC hit “Heroes” for a few episodes last fall, until it freaked me out so badly that I couldn’t sleep at night. And as much as I agree that if we save the cheerleader, we save the world, I simply can’t go back to it. Too much gore in a world that already has its fill.

But I like the fact that at a time when America trusts nothing and nobody, doesn’t believe in its leaders (according to polls), despite the fact that it chose them, and is beginning to understand global vilification, a television show about ordinary people doing extraordinary and heroic things is getting a lot of attention.

I’m not sure if I have any heroes, although until I just stopped and thought about it, I’m sure I assumed that I did. There are lots of people who inspire me, of course: activists like Elaine Brown, rock stars like Bono, artists like Henri Matisse, writers like e.e. cummings. But a hero? What is that exactly?

According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, heroes are people who aren’t necessarily braver than the rest of us – they are simply braver longer. And during lunch at the Carnegie Deli several

months ago, I understood why that particular interpretation of hero might work the best for me.

I was sitting at the Carnegie with Tommie Smith and his wife Delois. Smith won the gold medal in the 200-meters at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968, and then made history when he and teammate John Carlos raised black-gloved fists during the victory ceremony that followed. Their action – and the movement behind it, the Olympic Project for Human Rights – was the focus of my doctoral dissertation, *Flag on the Field*, and my first book, *Not the Triumph but the Struggle*. People often assume that I know Smith well, but this lunch was actually the first time I’d ever spoken to him.

Why? My work on Smith and the OPHR needed critical distance – it was about the representations and interpretations of black power, not an oral history of those who took part in black power actions. So I never interviewed him, contacted him, or met him. His story was one that had to be told, I knew, but it had to be told by him, not by me.

But a few years ago, a manuscript landed on my desk – the autobiography of Tommie Smith, *Silent Gesture*, written with Baltimore sportswriter Davie Steele. An editor sent it to me and asked me to review it, to see if I

thought it was worthy of publication. I read it, gave comments, and then forgot about it. Then a year or so ago, this same editor came back to me with a project idea: would I like to edit my own series of books on the racial politics of sports? After much consideration, I agreed, and we began to strategize about which books we'd like to go after for my series. I asked him about Smith's autobiography, and he said he'd never heard back from Smith and Steele regarding the manuscript. So I gave David Steele a call. Many conversations later, I signed the book, and with its publication a few months ago, it became the lead title in my new series. I was pleased, to say the very least, to have a role in the publication of Smith's autobiography, and was even more pleased when he decided to come to New York to do some promotional appearances in support of the publication. We decided to have lunch. And when I met him, shaking his hand, looking up (way up – the man is tall), I had no idea how quickly I was going to learn just how correct Emerson was in his definition of a hero.

The Tommie Smith of my work, of my head, was a young man performing a brave, historic act in 1968. The Tommie Smith that I sat across from at the Carnegie Deli eating pastrami and cheesecake was a man who for the last forty years – more than half of his life – had continually relived that day and its consequences. Did he know, I wondered, when he stood on that victory dais, that it would become one of the defining moments of his life, of sports, of the Olympic Games, of civil rights? Did he know that once it happened, it could never be left behind, because

someone would continually use it as a source of inspiration, as a source of social change, as a source of racial hatred, as a source of anger? Perhaps he did. But I didn't. I sat at a table for over an hour and we talked about everything except that day in 1968. We talked about pastrami on rye and cheesecake, our families, our travels, the cold weather, books we both enjoyed, the various students we had mentored over the years, and so on. We chatted, and for most of the conversation, I wasn't a historian, and he wasn't history.

But it was that conversation that made me realize he was a hero and I wasn't. He was a hero because he had done something that made him be braver longer than most people, longer than I would ever be willing to do anything brave, longer than most people would have the capacity to be brave. Tommie Smith was finally getting a chance to tell his own story. And after spending the last ten years of my life focusing on that story, I think I finally understand just how important that story is. I got it.

A FOND FAREWELL:

FINAL WORDS FROM SOME OF OUR GRADUATES

Carla Adams, 07

The College of New Rochelle presented me with an excellent opportunity to develop into a socially conscious, confident young woman. As a Political Science major, I have become increasingly aware of the world around me and the current issues that face society. My experience in the Honors Program has afforded me with countless opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary research, increased my awareness of self, and promoted intellectual growth. As the 2007 Honors Conference Day Coordinator, my experience last semester was been unique in that I was able to take on a leadership role in the Honors Program through the organization of an annual event. It was a great pleasure to work with Dr. Bass and the Junior Colloquium to make Honors Conference Day, Women & the Law, a success. When I reflect back on my experience at CNR, I can not help but feel a sense of pride in my participation in the Honors Program. My experiences in the program will function as lasting memories of my college years. As a social science major in Political Science, I have fallen in love with politics and research. I now begin to fulfill my dream of attending law school — Florida Coastal — and I plan later to earn a doctorate in Political Science. In my future pursuits, I will hold tight to the skills, knowledge, and experiences I have gained from the Honors Program. In closing I would like to thank Dr. Bass, Dean Thompson, the faculty, and my fellow Honors Program Members for their guidance, and support. To the 2007 graduates: Congratulations.



Megan Skrip, '07

I think it would be quite fair to say that college has exceeded all of my expectations.

And although it is sad in a way to leave an environment that has sheltered, assisted, and taught me for the past four years, I leave with all of the valuable lessons I have gained and the satisfaction of knowing that all of my experiences here shall serve me well as I journey further along the continuum of life.

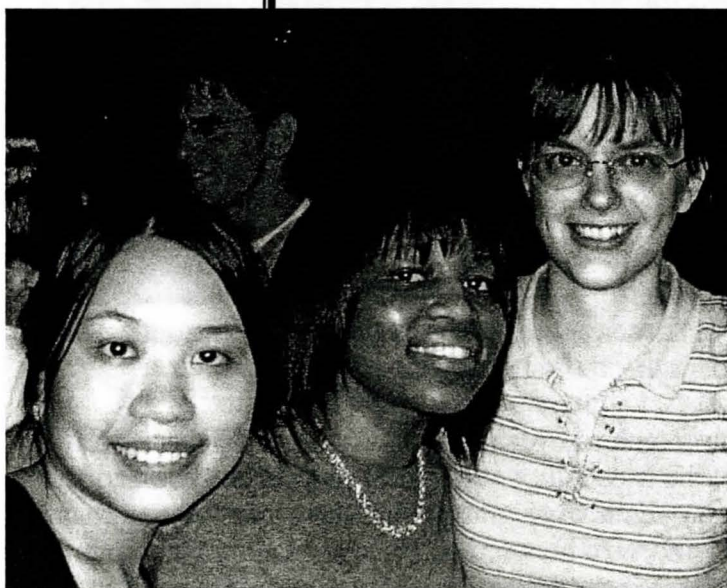
The CNR Honors Program gave me the opportunity to view remarkable acclaimed Broadway performances in New York City, to learn from other students at Honors conferences as I explored cities I had never before visited, and to pursue independent research that has expanded my appreciation of science and, yes, culture too.

What follows CNR is another fresh start—my five-year adventure as a graduate student began working at the Adirondack Ecological Center, followed by my first classes at the State University of New

York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in Syracuse. As undergraduate education has shown me so many possibilities and expanded my worldview, I am convinced that graduate study will abound in lessons, challenges, and triumphs of its own.

Surrounded by supportive peers, outstanding faculty, and a nurturing atmosphere at CNR, I have made the most of my experience here and am genuinely grateful to have attended this institution. Thank you to all who have enriched my life at CNR beyond my

imagination, and best of luck to all other students as you too pursue your dreams!



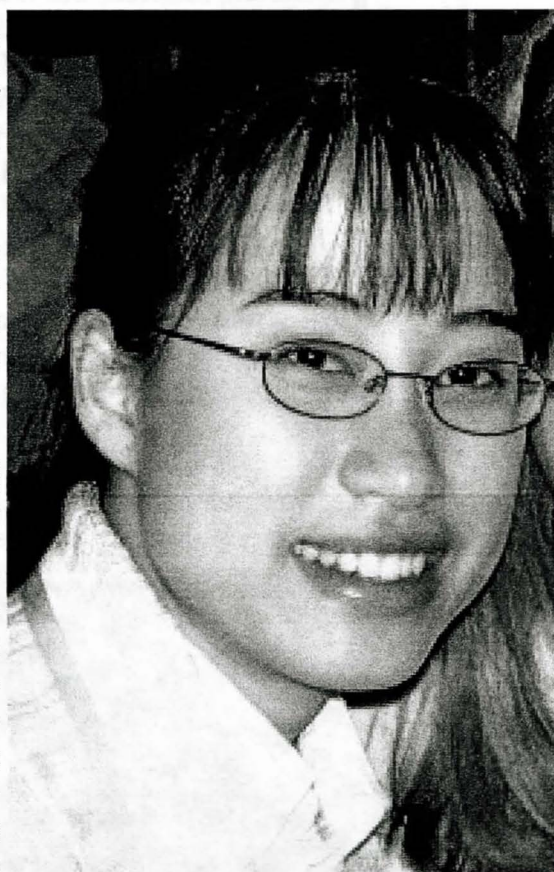
A FOND FAREWELL:

Tegan Nguyen, '07

When I filled out the application for the Honors Program, I did not know what to expect from the program. I knew Honors students need to have eight Honors experiences, which include classes and project contracts. Since I did not want to face the challenge of meeting the requirements for my majors and the Honors Program, I hesitated to submit the application for the Honors Program. However, after four years with the program, I can honestly say that the Honors classes have enriched my understanding of issues outside the science field and I am very proud to be a graduate of the program.

Everyone's experiences with the Honors Program will differ based on her background and major. For myself, I appreciate the Honors classes because they were structured differently from my science classes. The discussions we had were quite enlightening and sometimes scary because the issues we covered did not have a readymade-textbook answer. The professors always made sure that we voiced our opinions and looked at ourselves within different contexts. (While I was in Dr. Bass's "Race and Ethnicity" class, I was deathly afraid of her going around the classroom and asking us to speak our mind. But thanks to Dr. Bass, I became more confident in expressing myself.)

Our Honors class had many memorable moments over the last four years. The Broadway shows were always the best. However, the friendships we built and struggles we had to face will leave a lasting impression on me. I am truly grateful for the opportunities that CNR and the Honors Program provided and very honored to be in the company of many great women. Thank you everyone for a great four years.



Rebecca Mui, '07

I've come to think of my experience in the Honors department as my college experience within my college experience. Those of you also in Honors hopefully know what I mean. Honors, for me, has been a steady part of my education where I have continued to be interested, challenged, and surprised. I am sure there will be many days to come where I think back on the days of "Race & Ethnicity," "Feminist Medicine," "Gender and Sexuality," or "Youth Culture." Even as I write the names I picture the Honors Center, with its over-sized table surrounded by students

stuffed in before the wall, ready and waiting. I'm sure that I'll think back on Honors in the future, as I already have so many times during my stay here at CNR. I'm thankful for the trips, the Broadway shows that I never would have seen and an Atlantic City weekend that surpassed and changed all of my expectations. I'm grateful for the professors, including the Dean, and the students here who have helped me make a home for myself in this "scary" city. It's amazing to me sometimes, how much I've gained from coming here, surviving here and thriving in this experience that I once referred to only as "the banishment from MA." What I'm really trying to say is that these classes, the discussions, the projects, even the papers, have all impacted me far beyond the classroom. Every class that I've taken outside of the Honors program has been enhanced from the perspectives that I've gained through my Honors experience. Everything I've done, really. It's kind of strange to think about how my life might have been different if I had started CNR during a different Honors rotation. Who would I be if we had started with heredity or law? And even though I know I sound like one of those speeches we write for incoming freshman, I don't care because it's true. And, really, this may be my last chance to say it.



A FOND FAREWELL:

Camellia Safi, '07

I think that in the last month of college, I forgot how to breathe. When your awaiting the end to a part of your life...when you know the inevitable will take place and you have no way to stop, *everything* inside you can hurt.

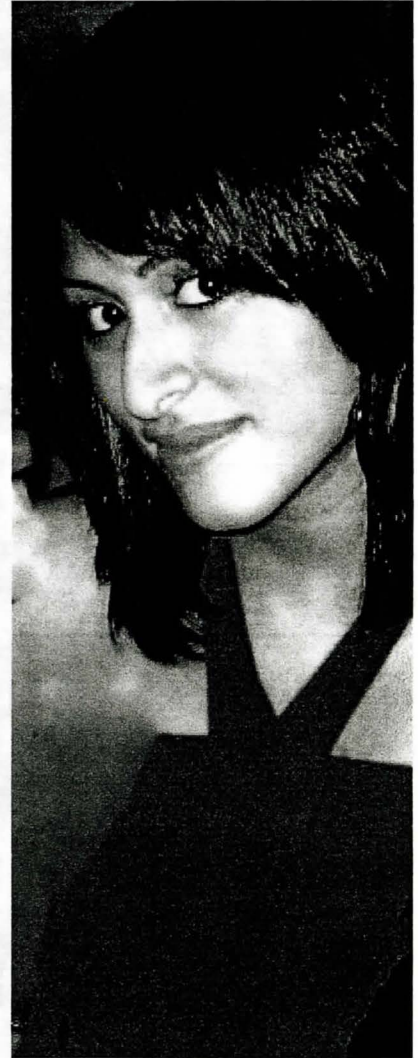
I still have no idea *how* I'm here...how I made it here...how time even went by this quickly. I should have paid attention to the moments more. I should have stopped complaining about wanting to get away, for now I'm back in Virginia living with my family, and I want so desperately to return to CNR. Secretly, I even wished I did not reach the credit requirement to graduate, just so I could have been here one last time.

For most of my peers, graduation is the end to CNR life; however, even though I know that my graduation is the beginning to something new and exciting...I know also, that I'm leaving my *home*...my home for the last twenty one years. I was born and raised in New York, moved to Virginia my senior year of high school, and decided to come back to New York for college. *Everything* familiar, everyone I love, everything I love about the *world* stays in New York as I graduate... as I leave my residence here, for good.

In my last days at CNR, I walked across the Maura Lawn...just thinking...letting myself *feel* moments I have taken advantage of in the past. I laughed about how all of freshman year of college I regretted choosing to come to an all women's school. Thinking back on my college experience, I would not be the person I am today if it were not for the experience I had at the *College of New Rochelle*. This school, my majors, the Honors program experience made me stronger person...a stronger *woman*.

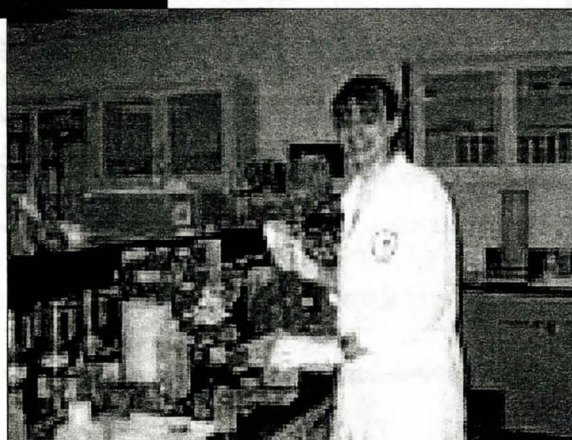
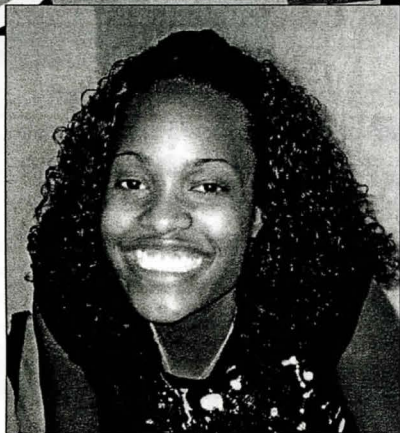
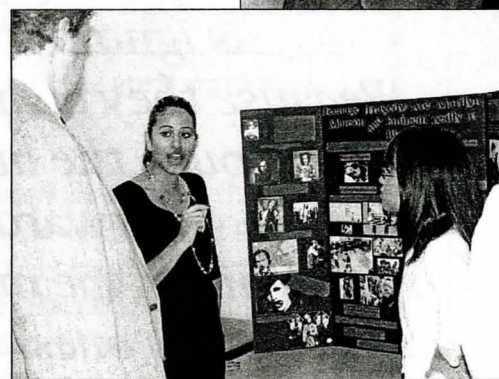
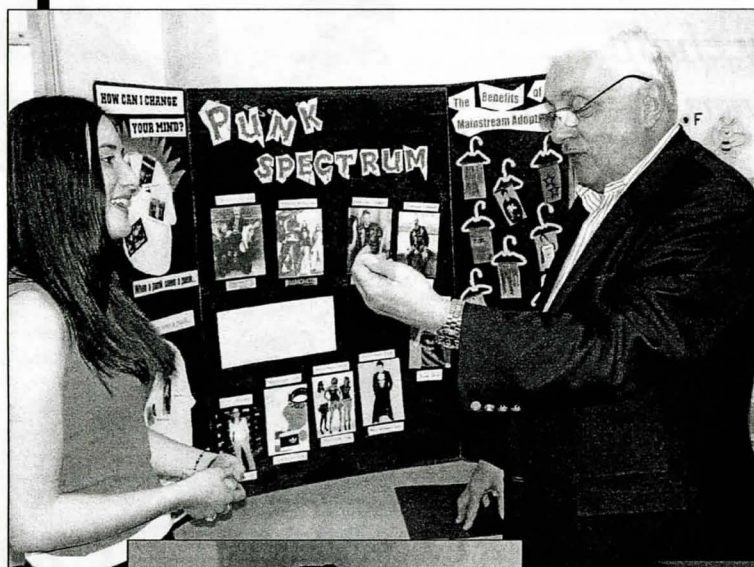
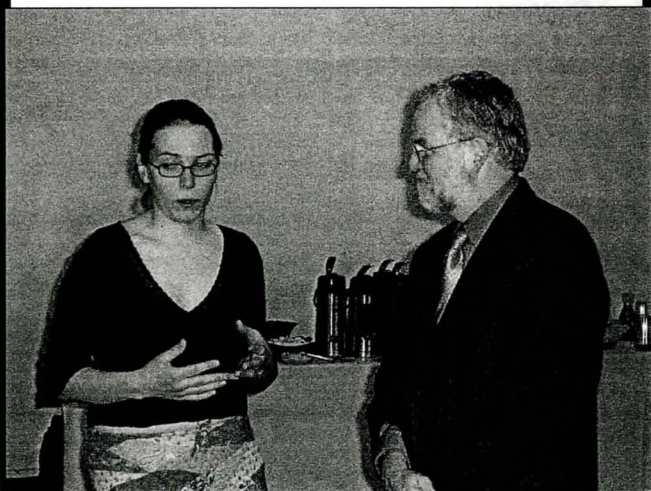
As I prepared myself mentally and emotionally for graduation, I knew, deep down, that everything will work out. I know I'll miss college. I know I'll miss the friends I made here. I know I'll miss the city and my friends in New York...but I also know that this is a new beginning. I plan on attending Law School in a year, carrying with me, all I have learned during my college experience here at CNR...carrying with me the dream to *change* the world. To the women graduating after me and to my Honor's class, I will leave you with my favorite quote:

“
*Here's to the crazy ones.
The rebels.
The round heads in the square
holes.
The ones who see things dif-
ferently.
They're not fond of rules.
You can quote them.
Disagree with them.
Glorify or vilify them.
But the only thing you can't do
is ignore them.
Because they change things.
They push the human race
forward.
And while some may see them
as the crazy ones, we see gen-
ius.
Because the people who are
crazy enough to think they can
change the world, are the ones
who do.*”



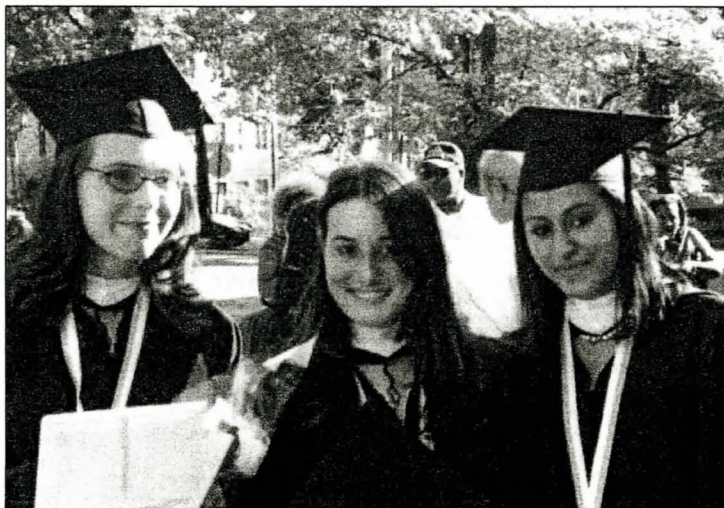
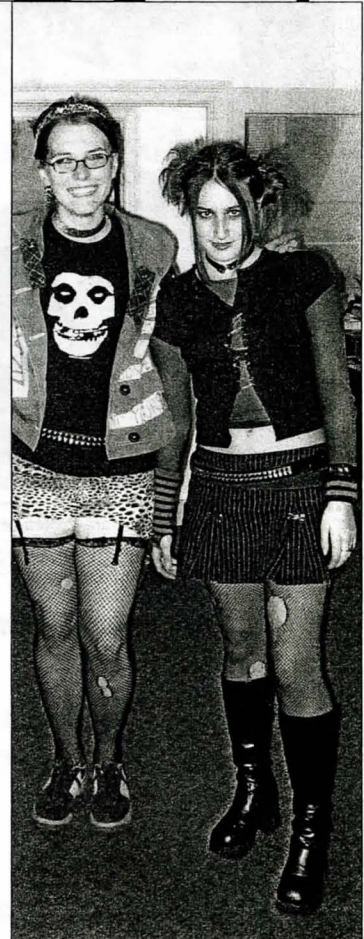
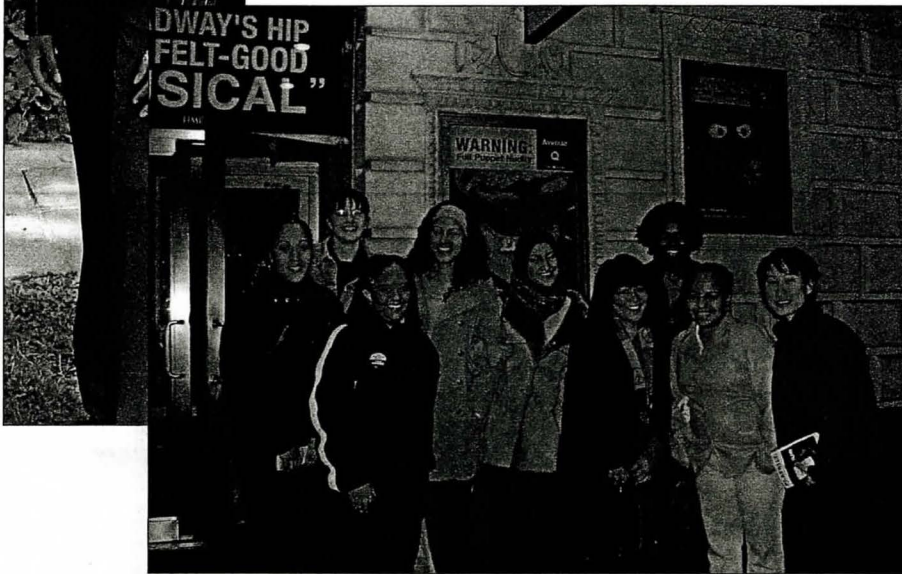
A FOND FAREWELL: LOOKING BACK

Photos
J. James, A. Bass,
and
K. Tyranski



Photos:
J. James, A. Bass,
and
K. Tyranski

A FOND FAREWELL: LOOKING BACK



MY LIFE, MY HONORS...

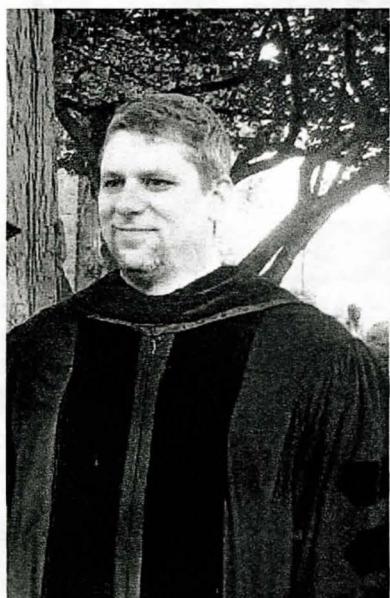
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY COMMUNICATING THE ROLE THAT THE HONORS PROGRAM PLAYS IN THE LIVES OF OUR EXTRAORDINARY SCHOLARS.

MY NAME: *NICK SMART*

CHILDHOOD AMBITION: *BASEBALL STAR/ROCK STAR/PERRY MASON*

FIRST JOB: *TACO CHEF AT TORTILLA JUNCTION ACROSS FROM BOZEMAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL*

LAST PURCHASE: *BOB DYLAN TICKETS (TONS OF THEM)*



Dr. Nick Smart, Associate Professor
of English. Photo: J. James

INDULGENCE: *TITLEISTS THAT GET LOST IN THE WOODS*

FONDEST MEMORY: *HUNTING WITH MY GRANDFATHER & OUR DOGS*

SOUNDTRACK: *HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED*

RETREAT: *SLOUGH POND, TRURO, MASS.*

WILDEST DREAM: *YEAH, RIGHT.*

PROUDEST MOMENT: *CNR COMMENCEMENT, EVERY YEAR*

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: *WRITING FICTION, BEING HUMAN*

ALARM CLOCK: *LITTLE DIGITAL TRAVEL ALARM*

PERFECT DAY: *ABOVE GROUND*

FAVORITE MOVIE: *THE GRAND ILLUSION*

INSPIRATION: *THE GENIUS OF BOB DYLAN AND VIRGINIA WOOLF*

MY LIFE: *TBA*

MY HONORS: *FRESHMAN HONORS EVERY OTHER YEAR, AND A SEMINAR NEXT SPRING*

MY LIFE, MY HONORS, MY COMMENCEMENT...

MY NAME: *CARLA ADAMS*

CHILDHOOD AMBITION: *ATTORNEY*

FONDEST HONORS MEMORY: *CNR ADMISSIONS AMBASSADOR*

LAST PURCHASE: *SUSHI!* INDULGENCE: *BEAUTIFUL THINGS*

PROUDEST HONORS MOMENT: *BEING ACCEPTED TO MY IDEAL LAW SCHOOL*

SOUNDTRACK: *KANYE WEST — GRADUATION*

RETREAT: *HOME*

WILDEST DREAM: *JUSTICE C. ADAMS, ESQ.*

FONDEST HONORS MOMENT: *GIVING MY SPEECH AT HOODING*

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: *LAW SCHOOL!!!!*

ALARM CLOCK: *MY AMBITION*

MY PERFECT DAY: *THERE'S NO SUCH THING.*

FAVORITE MOVIE: *THE NOTEBOOK*

INSPIRATION: *THE THRILL OF SUCCESS* MY LIFE: *IS JUST BEGINNING!*

MY HONORS: *SET THE FOUNDATION*

SELECTED WORKS:
ART, ACCORDING TO MELANIE

Melanie Glass, '09

"SUNSET UNINTERRUPTED"
PHOTOGRAPH





"BLOOM"
PHOTOGRAPH

LOOKING BACK: NCHC CONFERENCE

Megan Skrip, '07

At the 41st annual National Collegiate Honors Council conference this past November, I not only learned about current research in Honors from students and faculty from across the country, but also met the great historic city of Philadelphia, up close and personal, for the first time. Now quite used to the industrial-small-space and expensive-high-rise contrasts of Manhattan, I was impressed by the stately architecture, detailed sculpture, and open spaces of Philadelphia, the colonial roots of which are apparent everywhere from old markets and cathedrals to new bars named after founding fathers.

I began my explorations with an accidentally but gratifyingly roundabout \$1 trolley ride at night to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, observing Philly's Chinatown and riverfront on the way. At the museum, in addition to beholding great works of art, I of course navigated the massive main stairway of Rocky fame and visited the larger-than-

life statue dedicated to this Hollywood hero, placing the city in a cultural context that I had already begun developing by comparing famous sites in NYC

with their cinematic repre-



Megan proudly stands with her poster at the NCHC annual conference.

Photo: J. James

sentations. An organized trip to The Constitution Center supplemented this experience by offering inter-

active educational exhibits and a chance to meet Mr. Benjamin Franklin himself, reincarnated as a talented and genial impersonator.

Conference sessions on grad school preparation, interdisciplinary Honors curricula, field studies, and the connection between religion, feminism, and justice proved informative and engaging. A discussion focusing on risk-taking by students with unconventional ideas and international ambitions was particularly enlightening.

Continued on page 30

NCHC CONERENCE (CONTINUED)

Sarah Worthington, '07

This year, the National Collegiate Honors Council held their national conference in Philadelphia. The theme of the conference was liberty, which I found to be incredibly appropriate during a time of public dissatisfaction with recent government policies and the actions of the current administration. The theme is also relevant because the conference took place only a few weeks after Election Day, and voting is one of the main ways that Americans exercise their liberty as citizens.

Many of the student projects dealt heavily with ideas of liberty, whether religious, social or political, while other interpreted ideas of liberty more broadly. The plenary speaker, Arthur R. Miller, talked a great deal about the contemporary interpretations of personal liberties, especially under laws enacted recently, such as the Patriot Act. Miller was a wonderful speaker, and discussed how exercising liberties that are implicit in the Bill of Rights

could interfere with the liberty to personal privacy. From the plenary speaker, and from many student projects and presentations, I was definitely able to meditate on this theme during

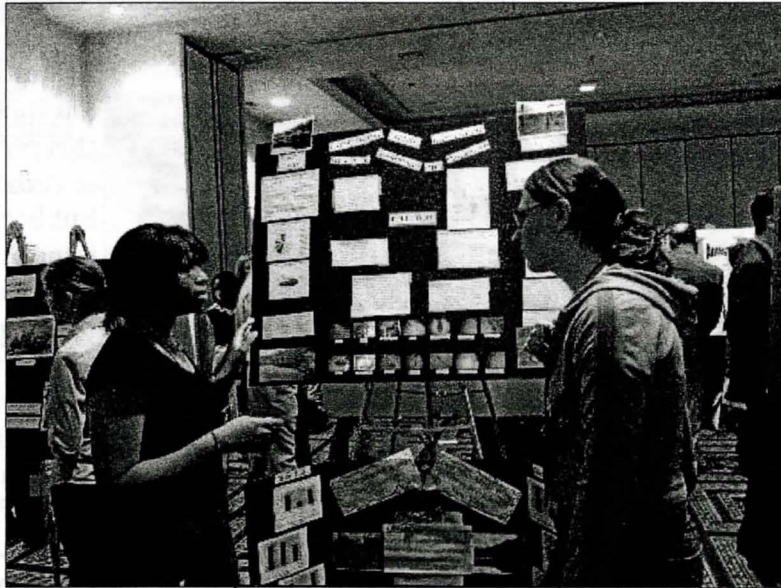
the time I spent in Philadelphia.

The city itself related very much to the theme, because Philadelphia is the city where the Constitutional Convention

adopted the original constitution in 1787. The NCHC organized a field trip for the student attendees to

the city's Constitution Center, located directly across the street from Independence Hall, where the Liberty Bell is housed. The Constitution Center had several interactive displays that were concerned with the liberties protected by the U.S. Constitution, and how they have been tried and tested over the past 200 years. This field trip was fun and informational, and helps visitors to appreciate the many liberties that they may take for granted as citizens.

While attending the conference, I



Shonda Gaylord, '08, discusses her poster with Sarah, '07, at the NCHC Conference poster session.

Photo: J. James

Continued on page 30

LOOKING BACK:

NCHC CONERENCE (CONTINUED)

Shonda Gaylord, '08

"Liberty" was the 41st Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference theme, and what better place for such a conference to be held than the hub of liberty itself...Philadelphia! I was one of the fortunate, and less revealing, stu-

dents in a crowd of nearly 2,000 who displayed their poster boards with their near and dear research in one of the two poster sessions. I always love to present my research because it is so important to me and I

am proud of what I have done, so naturally I entertained any (and all) questions regarding my research that came my way. I also stole some time for myself to observe the many impressive displays that other students offered. However, I must admit the panel presentations are more to my liking.

I attended five presentations (it's free knowledge!) and wanted to attend many more! First, I went to the student interdisciplinary research panel featuring CNR's own Jeanene James. I was a bit taken back by what she had said because I was unaware of the fact

that CNR had banned the production of "The Vagina Monologues" and I am seriously displeased to hear that they still have not permitted the performance here on campus. Considering that this is an all women's college it seem

blatantly ridiculous not to permit this performance or those like it. But back to the issue at hand, I must say that Ms. James gave a great performance and was swarmed with many questions ranging from "Would CNR to be okay with hosting the

"Penis Commentaries?" to "How has this occurrence made stu-

dents respond and take action around campus?" There was one interesting incident that occurred even before the panel had begun. The moderator, when introducing each presenter, would state her name, where she was from and the title of her research topic. When it came time to announce Jeanene and her title the female moderator simply stated Jeanene's name and what college she was from. She made no mention as to what the title of her presentation was or that it had anything to do with "The Vagina Mono-



Shonda, '08, and Bin, '08, presenting at the NCHC Conference poster session.

Photo: J. James

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NCHC CONERENCE (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 20

logues.” She did mention that her research concerned censorship and how it violations the first amendment.

What is it that makes so many people, including women, who are in a strictly professional and academic setting apprehensive about the word vagina and speaking it in public?

I also attended a presentation titled

“Give Me Liberty and Give Him Death: Political Bias in the Academic Classroom,” which was presented by two professors. One professor (Prof. Richard Freed) was from Eastern Kentucky University

and the other (Prof. Tucker Landy) was from Kentucky State University. It was interesting to see these two professors, who claimed to be good friends, speak on the issue of political bias in the classroom. They both taught in schools that were opposite to their own political views and both were strongly opinionated in their parties and the opposing parties. At times they would release little sarcastic

remarks or jokes slandering the other party, which always kept the audience in laughs. One of the most interesting suggestions in this presentation was the need to have affirmative action policies (or something similar) for conservative students since they seem to be lacking in higher education institutions. That suggestion obviously came

from the Republican and was quickly shot down by the audience! I also attended two diversity forums. One was on how to integrate science into the honors program. I was pleased to see that CNR was already striving

to do so with courses such as “Genetics and Identity” and “Art and Sciences Parallels,”

which I am currently taking. The other diversity forum was on cross cultural experiences in the honors program. Through student testimonies students showed how the honors experienced can be greatly enhanced when American students study abroad and when foreign students are admitted into the honors programs at American institu-



Shonda, '08, Binh, '08, Megan, '07, and Sarah, '07.

Photo: S. Worthington

Continued on page 30

LOOKING BACK:

NCHC CONERENCE (CONTINUED)

Jeanene James, '08

During my freshman year, in the Critical Research Essay course with Dr. Bass, I embarked on a journey that took me beyond my own expectations aca-

The process of writing the paper was a journey in itself. I explored the conflicting topics of academic freedom and censorship as they pertain to college



campuses. I used historical examples of these conflicts in order to con-

demically, and, in fact, all the way to Philadelphia! This journey began in the Gill Library with a small idea. Dr. Bass had instructed our class to begin searching for potential research paper topics by scouring the microfilm archives in search of a topic of interest, published on our respective birthdays. The article that I chose centered on a legal battle between a group of students demanding academic freedom, and a college wishing to censor them. This became the seed that grew into my paper, entitled "Most of us here have vaginas, it should be ok to talk about them: Censorship v. the First Amendment in the College Community."

Jeanene and two other panelists present at the NCHC Conference.
Photo: S. Worthington

textualize the local example that occurred at The College of New Rochelle. It took me

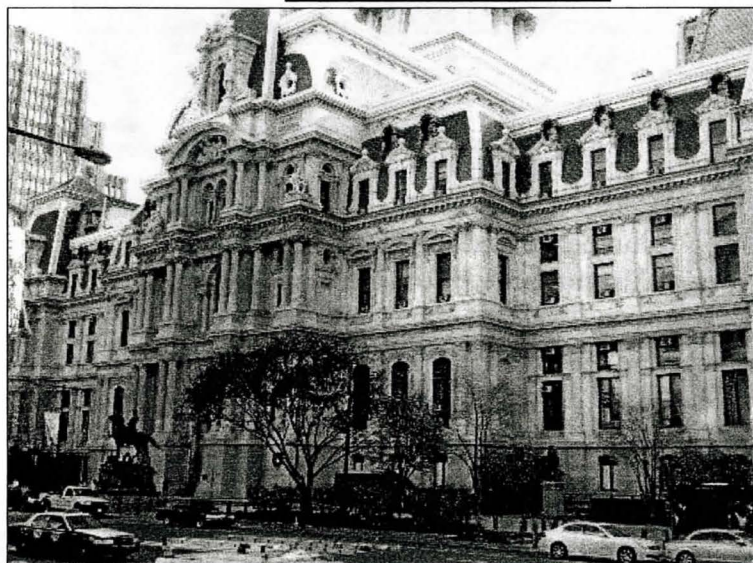
three months of the first semester of my freshman year to complete the paper, which I revised earlier this year in hopes of presenting it on a panel during the 2006 NCHC Conference in Philly. With the help of Dr. Bass, I sent in the paper, along with my application, and it was accepted. So began the next leg of my journey; I was given the opportunity to present the paper on a panel that focused on the topic of liberty with regard to religion.

We arrived in Philadelphia on November 18 in the midst of a torrential downpour. Being that this was my very first conference of this sort, I was

Continued on page 23

LOOKING BACK: NCHC CONERENCE (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 22



CNR Students experienced many of the famous sites of Philadelphia during their stay.

Photo: S. Worthington

terribly nervous about my impending presentation

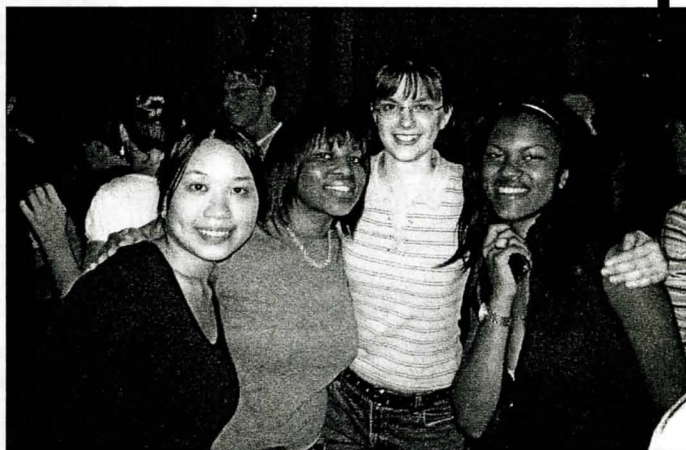
and saw the horrifying rainstorm as an ominous sign from God that the panel would be a resounding disaster.

Luckily, on the morning of our presentations, the skies were clear and I regained some of my confidence (the rest of it being still wrapped up in my unshakeable stage fright).

After taking in the poster sessions, and observing my classmates present their work to the many passersby, I prepared for my own panel session. I used my allotted fifteen minute speaking time to go through the rudiments of my paper, explaining the tiers of my research, establishing my arguments, and present-

ing my corresponding evidence. Being that the title of my paper was seen as somewhat controversial and maybe even scandalous to those who based their judgment of it only on the 4 sentence blurb in the event program, I made a point of substantiating my thesis with historical references, speaking from a scholarly perspective, thus validating it. In fact, the panel turned out to be a resounding success, contrary to my initial beliefs upon witnessing the raindrops of fury being hurled downward on Philadelphia the night we arrived.

The audience received my presentation extremely well; I got myriad questions from students, professors and administrators who seemed genuinely interested in the topics I raised. I engaged in intriguing conversations and at times even debates with the other



panelists and with members of the audience. In

Binh, Shonda, Megan, and Jeanene mixed and mingled with other honors students from across the nation. *Photo: S. Worthington*

Continued on page 31

LOOKING BACK:

NCHC CONERENCE (CONTINUED)

Binh Phong, '08

Having breakfast with approximately 1800 people from 49 states was not exactly what I had in mind for an early Friday morning in Philadelphia. Yet that was my first experience of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference. From debating about which sessions to attend, to striking a pose with Benjamin Franklin at the Constitution Center, from chatting with other students about their Honors programs, to a walk around town, my Philadelphia experience was a great and memorable one.

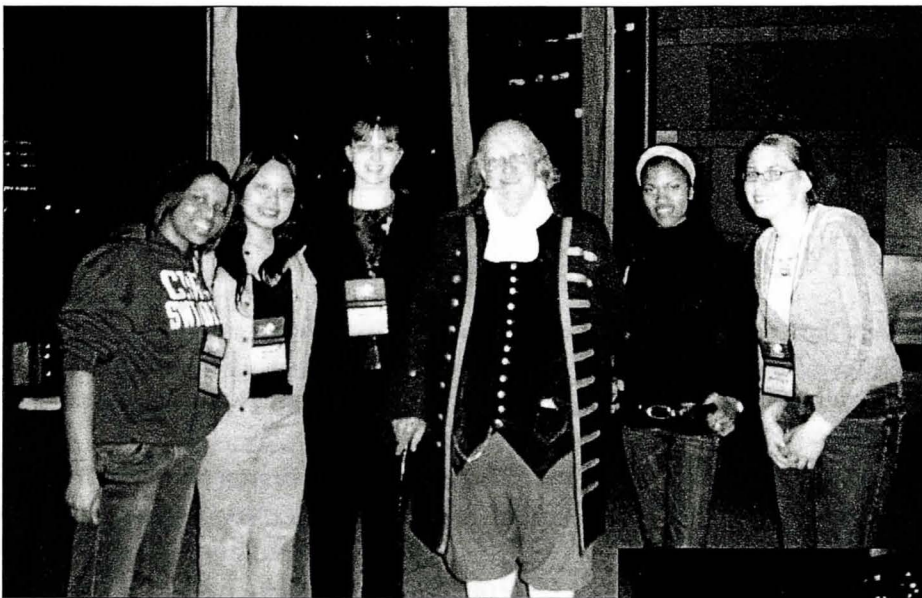
The conference was very well-organized, with over a hundred of general sessions, workshops, open forums, luncheons and receptions; there was a great variety of activities for everyone to choose from. The poster session was successful, and Shonda and I had quite a few interested inquirers. It was very interesting to see works from all academic disciplines on display in one single conference room. The general sessions and activities that I attended included: the Student Party; my own poster session presentation, Jeanene James's student interdisciplinary research panel; the enriched Pre-Med program partnership between UConn's Honors Program and its medical school; a panel discussion about an Honors course entitled "An American Dream: The Myth and Reality of Liberty"; a diversity forum about methods to approach diversity in both academic and campus life; Arthur Miller's plenary address on free press

and right to privacy; the presidential luncheon; and last but not least, the Philadelphia Experience night at the Constitution Center.

One of the sessions that I attended had the eye-catching name "Honors in Prison." It is an innovative service learning opportunity in which student volunteers from University of Alabama at Birmingham get to have one-on-one interaction with inmates in a maximum security prison. Students then hold in-class discussions to share their experiences from these individual meetings. The program seems to be a very unique and valuable experience for the participants since all the student presenters emphasized how much these personal interactions have changed their perspectives about life. One student even mentioned that the inmates whom he talked to are among the smartest people that he knows.

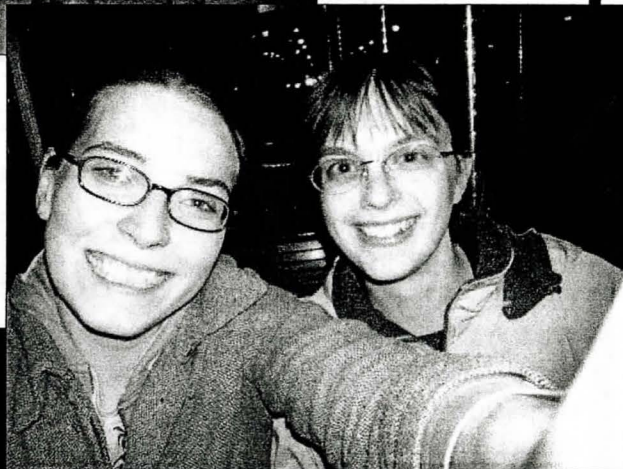
"An American Dream: The Myth and Reality of Liberty" sparked the most heated discussion as students from Eastern Kentucky University addressed the ideological components of the American Dream, such as social, racial, gender inequalities and their relationships to the American Liberty. This discussion ended with a crucial acknowledgement that each of us has a different American dream and globally speaking, the American dream is everyone's dream of success. It is profoundly true because I myself also came to the United States with my own American dream!

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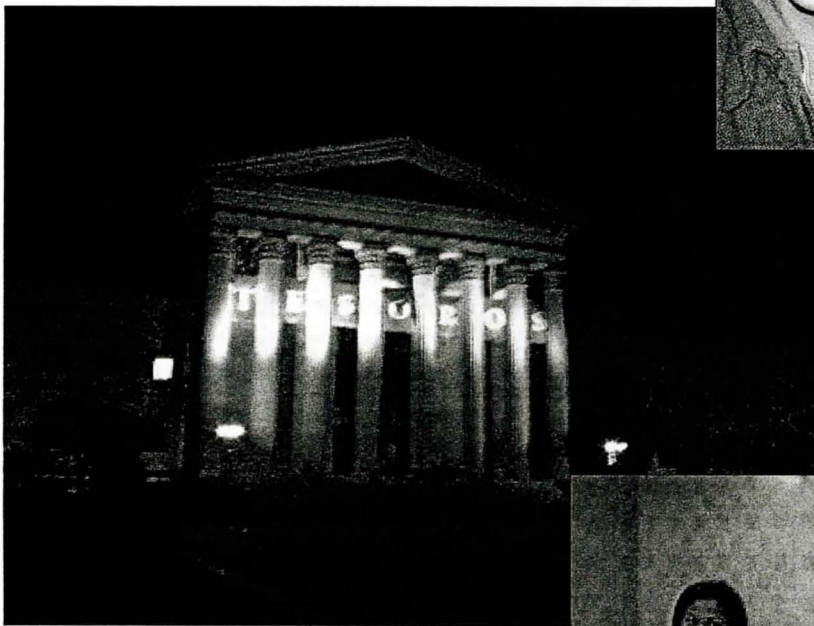
CNR Honors students pose with a Benjamin Franklin impersonator at the Constitution Center.

Photo: J. James



Sarah, '07, and Megan, '07, ride the trolley to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Photo: S. Worthington



The Museum of Art was a popular site for CNR students to spend time at.

Photo: S. Worthington



Jeanene participated in an interactive question and answer session with the audience.

Photo: S. Worthington

LOOKING INWARD:

LET THE SHOW BEGIN: CARLA ADAMS SAS HOODING, 2007

Congratulations to the Class of 2007! The curtain has fallen on the stage of our lives here at the College of New Rochelle. As we sit here today, anticipating setting the stage for the next act of our life one must consider the insight, ideals, and education gained here. This is a time of transition, personal growth, and evolution into a new period in our lives. As the curtain call begins at Radio City Music Hall tomorrow morning, look back on you memories of the past with gratitude, but look forward to the future with anticipation, for great things lie ahead.

Act One= we can all easily recall the initial academic introduction to the College of New Rochelle through consideration of INS 100. As eager freshman unsure of the path that awaited us, INS functioned as our compass. Through degree mapping, self exploration, and increased awareness of our responsibility as students we began our journey. This was a time of fragility for most of us, a time when we questioned who in fact we really were, and chose the person that we would be as part of the CNR community. As the curtain slowly rose, it revealed a supportive audience of the administration, faculty mentors, professors, parents and friends who became our most precious critics and greatest allies. At times they provided

us with a motivation push, or rather shove, when they saw that we were not living up to our potential. The process of adapting to our new roles as students of the School of Nursing and School of Arts and Science was a time a time of anxiety but also a time of great enthusiasm for all who were willing to play the part.

Act Two= the curtain falls and rises, and reveals surprisingly, that our supportive audience has maintained their patience, and devotion in assisting us in our pursuit of an education. These individuals soon became part of our comfort zone. The administration, faculty, parents and friends provided us with the confidence that we needed to com-

"We embarked on the process of learning who we are and where we fit into the grand scheme."

bat our stage fright so that we could bask in the lime light. The transition became much easier that we initially thought. Personal growth latched on to us, as fear of the unknown began to release its grip. We embarked on the process of learning who we are and where we fit into the grand scheme. We became advocates for women's rights, increased our awareness of the world around us, and laid a foundation for a community amongst our peers. This was a time in which our stage was set, the script printed, and we were waiting in the wings anticipating the beginning of the end.

Act Three= clearly our performance

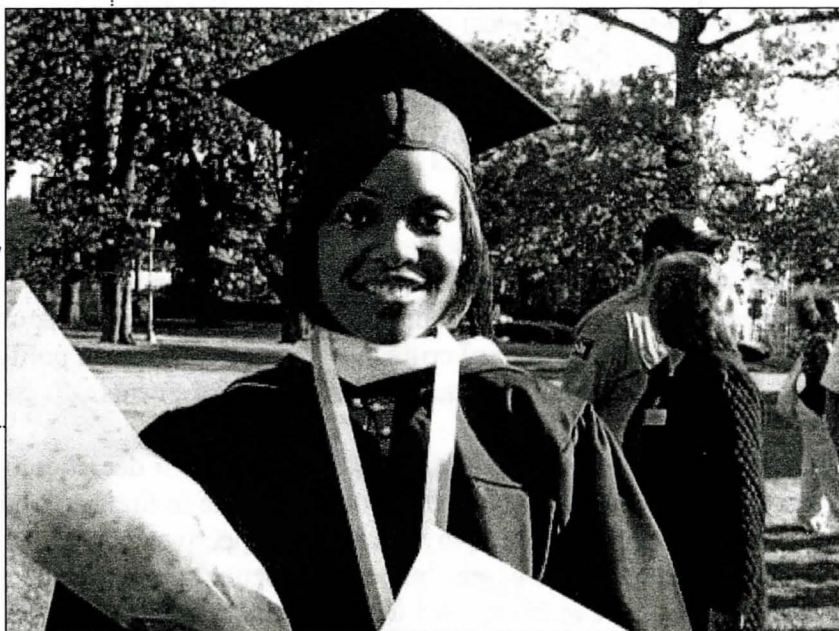
"In this time of transition, in which you are called to set a new stage, and develop a new role in the masterpiece of life, hold tight to the ideals that CNR has instilled."

has ceased here at CNR. It was truly a stunning success, complete with our diligence to scholarly studies, commitment to diversity, and awareness of the benefits of attending an all women's college. In

fondly on the relationships with the faculty, administration, and peers you have developed here, for they will be your biggest support as we exit this stage only to be placed onto another.

When you are doubtful of your role within the world, rely on the foundation that CNR has laid for you, and utilize that as inspiration to rigorously pursue your goals. As I glance into the

audience, and see the faces of the graduates, I can not help but realize that we are the directors of our own production and now is the time to assert ourselves as the directors of our fate. Class of 2007,



this time of transition, in which

you are called to set a new stage, and develop a new role in the masterpiece of life, hold tight to the ideals that CNR has instilled.

Remember the importance of community, academic excellence, and social awareness. Set your stage with confidence, realizing that your experience here at CNR has been one that has prepared you for your next act. Look

Congratulations on your successful completion of your undergraduate education. Enter into the world with confidence. For if you suddenly become overwhelmed with stage fright, certainly you can run back in to the arms of the supportive audience of CNR for the confidence that you need to play out your role in the lime light where you belong.

LOOKING AHEAD:

TO THE CLASS OF 2011

"There, in that living room, we rediscovered that we are also living, breathing human beings; and no matter how repressive the state became, no matter how intimidated and frightened we were, like Lolita we tried to escape and create our own little pockets of freedom."

- Azar Nafisi

Dear Class of 2011,

Welcome to the Honors Program at The College of New Rochelle!

We five seniors have spent the '06—'07 school year reading, discussing, and analyzing novels and non-fiction to select a book that might frame your next four years, starting with your first Honors class, HON 101: The Self in Context. This class is specifically designed to help you reflect upon your identity, develop greater social awareness, and make the transition to college life.

After thorough consideration, we decided on Azar Nafisi's memoir entitled *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, which takes place in The Islamic Republic of Iran during a time when women's rights were severely restricted. The book follows seven female college students who dared to participate in a forbidden book club led by Professor Nafisi. Weaving literary criticisms with reflections on political issues, she paves the way for class discussion of current global events.

Our own experiences at an all-women's institution influenced our decision to choose a women-centered piece. We hope that you will relate to this book both as women and as new college students. May the new perspectives you gain through the main characters' own struggles help you to better appreciate the opportunities that you will have at CNR. We wish you the best in your HON 101 class, and with all of your future endeavors.

Warm regards,

The Class of 2007:

Tegan Ngyuen, Sarah Worthington, Camellia Safi, Bekki Mui, and Megan Skrip

The Honors Program
is pleased to welcome

Stephanie Amaya

Kristin Diaz

Mary Henderson

Sakina Laksimi

Darianna Parra

Eileen Schaub

LOOKING BACK:
NCHC CONFERENCE
CONTD.

MEGAN SKRIP
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

My poster on invasive species (zebra mussels and water chestnut) interactions in the Hudson River was well received, and I was approached by several interested conference-goers who wanted to find out more.

SHONDA GAYLORD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

tions. The last panel I attended discussed the myths and realities of liberty and the American dream. I appreciate opportunities that allow me venture outside of biology and environmental studies because courses concerning political science, history, international relations, etc., are still important in my education. It is encouraging to see that students are willing to research and debate what they believe in and become implementers of change. Although it may sound like it was all learning, listening and discussion, the conference did provide us with a social gathering, great meals, and I had the opportunity to meet up with some friends that I knew were going to the conference as well.

SARAH WORTHINGTON
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

not only interacted with other students and attended various panels of interest, but got to explore a city rich with historical significance. I had never been to Philadelphia before, and I'm glad that I got to experience it in this way, with other students who were also exploring ideas of liberty at the National Collegiate Honors Conference.

BINH PHONG
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Overall, the National Honors Conference was a successful one. All of us felt that we have represented CNR very well through active participation in all of the activities. As a first-time attendee of an NCHC conference, I really appreciated the experience of interacting and hearing from other students, who are very much engaged and serious about their intellectual and social life in Honors. In fact I enjoyed it so much that I would love to attend the next NCHC conference in Denver, CO!

LOOKING BACK: NCHC CONFERENCE CONTD.

JEANENE JAMES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

the end, I felt proud of what I had accomplished. The journey that I began in the infancy of my college career had culminated in the NCHC experience, where I was able to share my research as a cohesive and comprehensive paper that detailed the dichotomy between censorship and the First Amendment in the college community.

After my presentation, my Philadelphia experience really began. In the next two days, in addition to observing other panels and presentations, I got a feel for the city by exploring the downtown area, visiting the Constitution center, walking through the bustling Reading Market and visiting the immaculate and historic City Hall edifice.

I thoroughly enjoyed the NCHC Conference. It was an amazing opportunity for me to interact with students from other schools, representing other Honors programs. In addition I enjoyed having a forum in which to present my paper, which I had worked so hard on, while being provided with feedback from a wide array of observers. I certainly hope

that I will be able to attend another before I graduate, and I would encourage every member of CNR Honors to submit their research, as the conference presents an opportunity that every student should take advantage of.

Your Life, Your Honors...

Join us in our new initiative to better acquaint the extraordinary members of the Honors community via our feature entitled, *My Life, My Honors*. Request the brief survey page (as exemplified on pages 18 & 19) at abass@cnr.edu, fill it out, send it in and your submission may be published in the next issue of Femmes.

